

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

means for accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol; and

means for examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the accumulating means is operative to produce a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values and the examining means is operative to detect the predetermined message symbol based on the third signal value.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the accumulating means is operative to produce the third signal value by linearly combining the first and second signal values.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the accumulating means is operative to produce the third signal value as a non-linear function of the first and second signal values.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the accumulating means is operative to store the first and second signal values, and the examining means is operative to detect the predetermined message symbol by examining both of the first and second signal values.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving means comprises an acoustic transducer for transducing an acoustic audio signal to an electrical signal, the acoustic audio signal having a plurality of code symbols representing a plurality of message symbols comprising source data for the acoustic audio signal, and further comprising a memory for storing indications of detected message symbols.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a housing for the system adapted to be carried on the person of an audience member and means for transmitting the stored data for use in producing audience estimates.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a

predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol; and

examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving the first and second code symbols by transducing an acoustic audio signal to an electrical signal, the acoustic audio signal having a plurality of message symbols comprising source data for the acoustic audio signal, and storing data representing indications of detected message symbols.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising transmitting the stored data for use in producing audience estimates.

16. (Previously Presented) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate a first signal value representing the first code symbol and a second signal value representing the second code symbol, the digital processor being further programmed to examine the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the input device comprises an acoustic transducer for transducing an acoustic signal to an electrical signal, the acoustic audio signal having a plurality of code symbols representing a plurality of message symbols comprising source data for the acoustic audio signal, the digital processor having a memory for storing data representing indications of detected message symbols.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a housing for the system adapted to be carried on the person of an audience member and means for transmitting the stored data for use in producing audience estimates.

19. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, the first and second code symbols each comprising a predetermined number of frequency components;

means for producing first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each

component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol;

means for accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the first set of component values and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the second set of component values; and

means for examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

20. (New) A method for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, the first and second code symbols each comprising a predetermined number of frequency components;

producing first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol;

accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the first set of component values and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the second set of component values; and

examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

21. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, the first and second code symbols each comprising a predetermined number of frequency components; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to produce first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol, the digital processor being further programmed to produce a first signal value based on the first set of component values and a second signal value based on the second set of component values and to accumulate a first signal value representing the first code symbol and a second signal value representing the second code symbol, the digital processor being further programmed to examine the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

22. (New) A system for decoding predetermined message symbols of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio

signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being represented by plural sets of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, at least one of the marker symbol and the data symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

means for accumulating sets of first and second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof; and

means for examining the accumulated sets of first and second signal values to detect the presence of the at least one marker symbol based on its signal value set and to detect the at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the at least one marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

23. (New) A method for decoding predetermined message symbols of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being represented by plural sets of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, at least one of the marker symbol and the data symbol

being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

accumulating sets of first and second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof; and

examining the accumulated sets of first and second signal values to detect the presence of the marker symbol based on its signal value set and to detect at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

24. (New) A system for decoding predetermined message symbols of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being represented by plural sets of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, at least one of the marker symbol and the data symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate sets of first and

second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof, the digital processor being further programmed to examine the accumulated sets of first and second signal values to detect the presence of the marker symbol based on its signal value set and to detect at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

25. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

means for accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol, wherein the accumulating means is operative to produce the first and second signal values based on multiple other signal values; and

means for examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

26. (New) A method for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on multiple other signal values; and

examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

27. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate a first signal value representing the first code symbol and a second signal value representing the second code symbol based on multiple other signal values, the digital processor being

further programmed to examine the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

28. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

means for accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol, wherein the first and second signal values are produced from respective sets of time displaced signal values, each of the time displaced signal values representing a value of a respective one of the first and second code symbols during a corresponding time period thereof; and

means for examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

29. (New) A method for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and

displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol, wherein the first and second signal values are produced from respective sets of time displaced signal values, each of the time displaced signal values representing a value of a respective one of the first and second code symbols during a corresponding time period thereof; and

examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

30. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate a first signal value representing the first code symbol and a second signal value representing the second code symbol, wherein the first and second signal values are produced from respective sets of time displaced signal values, each of the time displaced signal values representing a value of a respective one of the first and second code symbols during a corresponding time period thereof, the digital processor being further programmed to

examine the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

31. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, the first and second code symbols each comprising a predetermined number of frequency components;

means for producing first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol;

means for accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the first set of component values and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the second set of component values, and for producing a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values; and

means for detecting the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols based on the third signal value.

32. (New) A system for decoding a message represented by a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being represented by plural sets of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, at least one of the marker symbol and the data symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

means for accumulating sets of first and second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof and for producing a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values; and

means for detecting a respective one of the plurality of message symbols represented by the first and second code symbols based on the third signal value and for detecting the message by detecting the presence of the marker symbol based on its signal value set and detecting at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

33. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

means for receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio

signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

means for accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol, wherein the accumulating means is operative to produce the first and second signal values based on multiple other signal values and wherein the accumulating means is operative to store the first and second signal values; and

means for examining both of the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the first and second signal values are produced from respective sets of time displaced signal values, each of the time displaced signal values representing a value of a respective one of the first and second code symbols during a corresponding time period thereof.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the first and second code symbols each comprise a predetermined number of frequency components, and further comprising means for producing first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol, and means for producing the first signal value based on the first set of component values and producing the second signal value based on the second set of component values.

36. (New) A method for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, the first and second code symbols each comprising a predetermined number of frequency components;

producing first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol;

accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the first set of component values and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the second set of component values, and for producing a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values; and

detecting the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols based on the third signal value.

37. (New) A method for decoding a message represented by a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being represented by plural sets

of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, at least one of the marker symbol and the data symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

accumulating sets of first and second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof;

producing a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values;

detecting a respective one of the plurality of message symbols represented by the first and second code symbols based on the third signal value; and

detecting the message by detecting the presence of the marker symbol based on its signal value set and detecting at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

38. (New) A method for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

receiving an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a

different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols;

accumulating a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on multiple other signal values;

storing the first and second signal values; and

examining both of the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the first and second signal values are produced from respective sets of time displaced signal values, each of the time displaced signal values representing a value of a respective one of the first and second code symbols during a corresponding time period thereof.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the first and second code symbols each comprise a predetermined number of frequency components, and further comprising producing first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol, and producing the first signal value based on the first set of component values and producing the second signal value based on the second set of component values.

41. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message

symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, the first and second code symbols each comprising a predetermined number of frequency components;

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to produce first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol, the digital processor being further programmed to accumulate a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the first set of component values and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol based on the second set of component values, to produce a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values, and to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols based on the third signal value.

42. (New) A system for decoding a message represented by a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being represented by plural sets of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, at least one of the marker symbol and the data symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the

message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate sets of first and second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof, the digital processor being further programmed to produce a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values, to detect a respective one of the plurality of message symbols represented by the first and second code symbols based on the third signal value, and to detect the message by detecting the presence of the marker symbol based on its signal value set and detecting at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

43. (New) A system for decoding a predetermined message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, comprising:

an input device for an audio signal in which a plurality of message symbols have been incorporated so that the message symbols are inaudible when the audio signal is reproduced audibly, the plurality of message symbols being contained within a predetermined message as a plurality of code symbols, the predetermined message symbol being represented by first and second code symbols incorporated in and displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols being incorporated in the audio signal and positioned in time between the first and second code symbols; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive the audio signal therefrom, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate a first signal value of the first code symbol representing the predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of the second code symbol representing the predetermined

message symbol based on multiple other signal values, to store the first and second signal values, and to examine both of the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the first and second signal values are produced from respective sets of time displaced signal values, each of the time displaced signal values representing a value of a respective one of the first and second code symbols during a corresponding time period thereof.

45. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the first and second code symbols each comprise a predetermined number of frequency components, and wherein the digital processor is programmed to produce first and second sets of component values, each set corresponding to a respective one of the first and second code symbols and each component value of each set representing a characteristic of a respective frequency component of the corresponding symbol, and the digital processor is further programmed to produce the first signal value based on the first set of component values and to produce the second signal value based on the second set of component values.